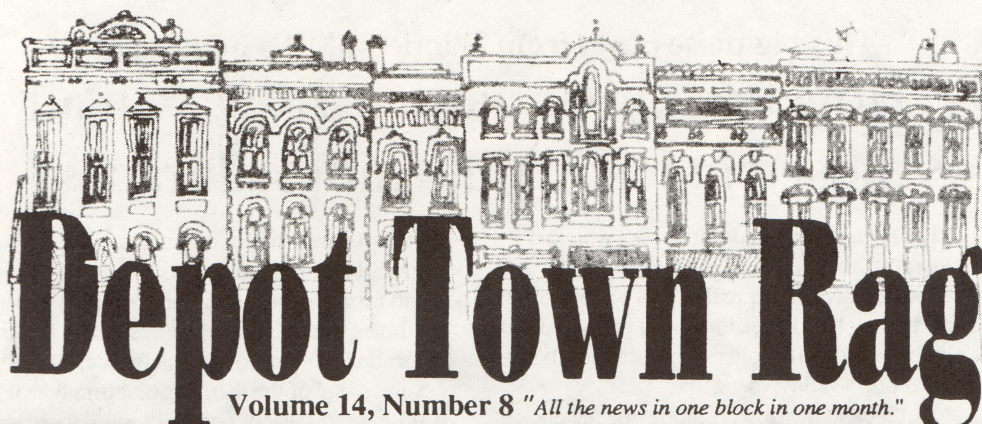




Depot Town Rag

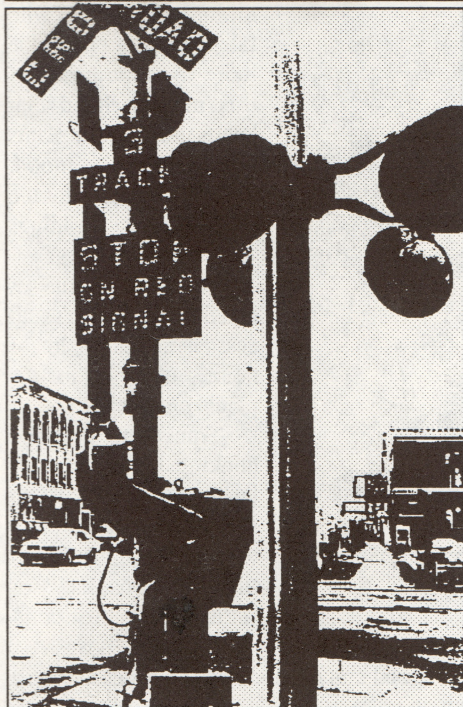
Volume 14, Number 8 "All the news in one block in one month."

100% FREE
Rag content

August 1991

- Festival fax & fun
- Suppressed song
- Early joy ride
- Towers debated
- Floral folderol
- ... and other strictly local stuff

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC., 25 1/2 East Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198



Detail taken from a 1970's Ann Arbor News photo by Jack Stubbs looking west from the tracks up East Cross Street.

It'll never work!

In the 1970's staghorn sumac grew out of the basement window grates in front of store windows, but they were a beautiful red in the fall, so no one wanted to cut them down.

The folks out at the lumber yard didn't mind taking orders for building supplies fifteen years ago, but they were often known to look askance at those loads that were headed for Depot Town. "Money down a rat hole!" one yard worker was heard to declare.

A City employee in 1976 suggested that Depot Town might want to 'move into the City limits' and apply for a federal grant to repair the sidewalks.

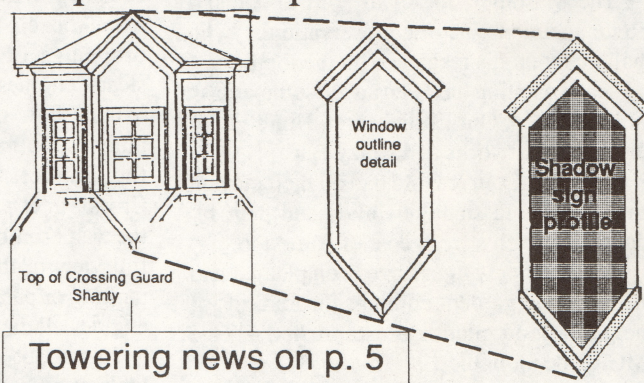
A year later residents got together to celebrate the new concrete in front of their buildings. The mayor went on an inspection tour and brought along a bodyguard!

Some thought the festival was so much fun that they decided to make it an annual event.

Destination signs repeat Tower profile in 'shadow'

Last May's clean-up project started some Association jobs that seemed to continue into the entire summer. Tree planting and sign painting seemed to fit the one day allotted to them, but the 'shadow signs' took longer.

This month they will appear in four locations around the district and show local business directories in an elegant two-dimensional format.



Towering news on p. 5

'Merchant Class' brings new order to the district in the past year

When saloon owner Bill French took over as DTA president last fall, some neighborhood wags remembered that it was his brother, Jerry, who was the first Association president in the late Seventies. The long hiatus saw mostly property owners running the group, and it wasn't until River Artworks' Paul Fetters took the helm that DTA really seemed to have the interest of the block's businesses as its primary focus.

As the DTA bylaws stated, the organization is a "nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the *enhancement of its business climate*." The accent for the past two years has definitely been on the last phrase.

President Bill's leadership saw a goal of 100% increase in foot traffic in one year and many projects have led in that direction:

- planting of dozens of trees in the block
- a new and more businesslike handling of jazz promotions at Frog Island and this month's Heritage Jazz Competition
- a shopper survey in which most businesses participate on a regular basis
- placement of banners on the light poles on Cross and River Streets
- communication with other district business groups and the Visitor & Convention Bureau.

• a marketing survey begun under Paul Fetters' tenure was completed under French's and the results published here for business perusal

- *The Rag* kept up its incessant banter and expanded to eight sides
- and probably the showiest project of all, the replication of the long-hoped-for but never-realized Signal Tower (hereafter called the *Crossing Guard Shanty* - see item on page 5).

With the annual elections coming up in September, many on the block are wondering if Bill will run again. "After all," they say, "it takes the first year to get to know how things work."

That may be true, but you also get to know what *doesn't* work - and that can get pretty depressing. Only last December Bill confided with a few past DTA presidents that "this could get to be a full-time job."

Perhaps the best way to get him to run again is to tell him what a good job he's doing and ask how we might help out during his second year in office.

Many more business owners and managers have taken on the responsibilities of district promotion and improvement; enough, in fact, to use the old slogan again: "On the right track in Depot Town."

Everybody get on board. Here we go again!

Dateline: DepotTown

• A new four-story porch has been added to rear of the McKeever building behind Depot Doo and Our Little Secret - facing the Market Plaza.

• They've tuck-pointed the facade of Rosen-Fine's building at #25 East Cross, home of the Designs on You Stitchin' Shop.

• New awnings are appearing at River Artworks and Miller's Ice Cream Parlor.

• Damaged awnings were replaced on the Follett House above J&R Trading Post. The replicated cornice is gorgeous, but it also dumps melting snow onto anything below - including canvas awnings!

• The Masonic Block was sold to Richard Reid, an ardent historic preservationist, who will maintain his residence on the top floor.

• Facade painting has been an all-summer task at Depot Doo, Our Little Secret, Hon's Flowers, River Artworks and Crazy Barb's.

• Old Town Coin & Gold had all their elegant green and gold signs reworked and their facade was given a fresh coat of paint, too.

• Dozens of new trees have been planted and many flower gardens continue the tradition of neighborhood planting established at the MCRR depot in the 19th Century.

• July's big storm blew most of the block's furniture down the street, but nobody minded. It was immediately replaced with fancier stuff that blew in from Ann Arbor! No big damage was reported and all our signs, trees and awnings survived the big blow. One local wag noted that, "If these old buildings can handle a hundred and forty years of train vibrations, one little old thunderstorm certainly isn't going to knock it down!"

• City officials wrestled with the legal matters for the Crossing Guard's Shanty and it is still hoped that volunteers may get some boards together before Heritage Festival.

Paint and flowers and hammers and nails: that's what this historic district is made of!

Support the sponsors of your monthly Depot Town Rag



Look for this logo in their window.

This big noise is *not* from Winnetka! It's home grown. How does your garden grow - in all those cinders by the railroad tracks?

Local garden clubbers and folks who know a lot more about annual florae tell us that Depot Town's flower beds really aren't supposed to do that. They look almost too properous for their location in the old railroad district. It's not what one would expect.

Just look at the flowers alongside the dock at the Freighthouse and then try to explain how anything can grow in the detritus left from the cinder and coal droppings of yesteryear's steam engines. Or try to explain how those flowers bloom so enthusiastically in the bunkers along East Cross Street - raised above the water run-off line and in full view of the exhaust of parking or passing gasoline engines all day long.

Just about any way you look at it, *nothing* should grow down in the old railroad district, but those who fell for that business of talking to their plants back in the sixties may have been on to something, after all.

The first indication of such phenomena was those scrawny tomato plants that bore fruit as big as your head. They were planted in plastic buckets and watered regularly, but the secret was in the wires. The emaciated looking plants were wired to a chain link fence for support - and that was their serendipitous secret; the vibration of the steel gate clanging regularly seemed to set off the Tomato Gods and the energy all went into the production of the round globes, not the skinny green vines.

So it must be with that dynamic triangle of blooms by the mailbox. It's the regular pass-

ing of Amtrak and Conrail that keep those flowers blooming so riotously.

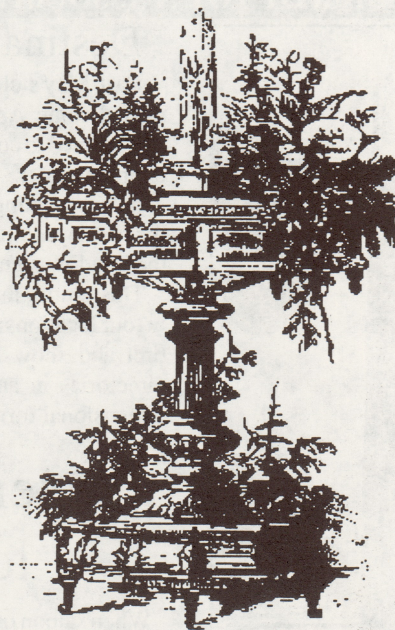
And further down the street it's the rhythm of the blues and jazz and excites such ecstatic colorations in our bounteous beds of blooms.

Sure, some of the district's plants may make it on garden variety conversation - there are certainly enough people around the block who talk to plants - but it's the more dynamic hustle of this neighborhood that keeps most of our plants in a responsive mood. After all, it works for the businesses and buildings - why not the plants?

And that's been the secret of Depot Town's success: making a lot of noise. It's good for the plants *and* the people.

Trains and jazz and honking horns and hollering up the block to somebody seem to put a lot more life into this district than 'Post-its'™ or cellular phones or commercial boom boxes.

A good conversation on the street seems so much more worthwhile than a recorded message on your telephone answering machine. Maybe it's the eye contact. Maybe it's the smell. Either way, plants and people thrive in Depot Town - and all the commotion is a big part of it. Nice thing about it is, *anyone* can join the hullabaloo! Welcome to the Nervous Center of the Universe. Depot Town's been tooting horns and blowing whistles and singing and dancing since the days of the Michigan Territory and it plans to keep on hollering. It's a good place to plant seeds, too.



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Ypsilanti on Five Dollars a day? You can do it at Festival time!

You don't have to be a hobo in the railroad district to get by on very little cash even at the peak of the season - Heritage Festival. From the very beginning, the Ypsilanti Yesteryear Heritage Festival committee held as its prime goal the possibility that a whole family could come to town for any one of the three days and have a good time on very little money. Their only expense should be for food.

Parking is free; all you need to do is be creative and walk in from the nearby neighborhoods surrounding the City parks. Downtown and EMU parking lots are probably the best bets for lots of space.

There aren't any paid admission shows here. Remember the Wallenda's high wire act? Their tradition continues, with stage entertainment, music and expositions absolutely free for everyone.

And the Living History Encampment at the south end of Riverside Park is an open-air, walk-through piece of free history happening before you very eyes.

Antique autos, gas and steam engines are lined up for easy inspection. All the tourist needs to do is shower the exhibitor with questions. These people love to talk about their displays and welcome your interest, too.

And there's a multitude of crafts demonstrations where hundreds of folks show the how and why of their work. Many doll makers and jewelers and glass blowers are fabricating their wares right alongside the cool paths by the Huron River. (No charge for the natural air conditioning, either.)

Many of the gentler competitions afford easy (and free) watching. You can play horseshoes, if you want, but it's just as much fun to watch others do it. Same with bingo, chess and the pedal-pull. Watching might be even more fun than playing!

Probably the very best free attraction at Festival time is People Watching. Whenever you gather more than a quarter of a million people together in one block for three days, there's bound to be something or someone worth looking at for a while.

Don't ignore your own personal exhibit, either. With all this free stuff to see, it's your responsibility to help put on a show, too. Whether you're into dust bonnets or spandex, anything you wear is a costume; you might as well join the constant parade of colorful Festival-goers and add to the festivity. Put on your favorite silly hat and join in on the (FREE) fun. Here's looking at you, kid!

Call for entries is out for Heritage Jazz Competition

During the 1991 Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Friday, August 16th through Sunday, August 18th, WEMU and the Depot Town Association will once again present the annual "Jazz Competition." This competition gives aspiring jazz musicians exposure to an appreciative audience both in the "Jazz Tent" and over the airwaves of WEMU, Ypsilanti (89.1 - FM). The free show is capped off each day with a headlining act for dancing.

Applications are now being taken for the 1991 Jazz Competition. Jazz ensembles of any size or style are welcome. Entrants sent cassettes of their group to WEMU up to last July 12th.

The award categories include solo-duo, trio-quartet, quintet and larger, outstanding vocalist, outstanding soloist and outstanding high school ensemble. Winners will receive gift certificates from Carty's Music in Ypsilanti and engagements at choice area venues.

All members of each group performing will receive a stipend. In addition to broadcasting each group's performance, WEMU will give each group a professional recording of their performance. Although it cannot be quantified, one of the most outstanding benefits for a competitor is the extensive print and radio exposure he or she will receive as well as the experience of performing in a festival.

Headlining bands, judges and additional prizes will be announced soon. Head adjudicator will be Michael G. Nastoš, WEMU evening jazz host and jazz critic for the *Ann Arbor News*.

[The line-up of headliners appears with Festival Facts on pages 4-5 of this issue.]

Edifice Complex: Local History that Never Happened



The Whirligig Ride

Installed as one of the first attractions for the Heritage Yesterday Fest in the Nineteenth Century precursor to today's Festivals, the Whirligig Ride was powered by six or seven strong women in plus-fours and sensible shoes. For the price of a pair of panty hose, today, you could circle a small aspen tree for one hour - a pleasant way to pass the summer's boredom if you were a proper Victorian and not allowed to do anything else.

Though this was not nearly as prestigious a position as handing out floral bouquets at the depot, young women of stronger sensibilities still were happy for the opportunity to serve at this popular pastime in the park.

The concrete foundation still can be found in Riverside Park, but the tree has been dead for at least sixty-seven years, if we can believe old photographs.

Other Festival attractions such as the Flaming Rocket to the Moon, the annual Kitten Toss and Frog Squash, and even the Helicopter Landing on the Cross Street Bridge and Knocking Down All the Artists' Booths, were *nothing* compared to the old Whirligig Ride, according to older citizens of the community.

Such amusements are not allowed today due to more practical sensibilities and lack of quick investment turnaround.



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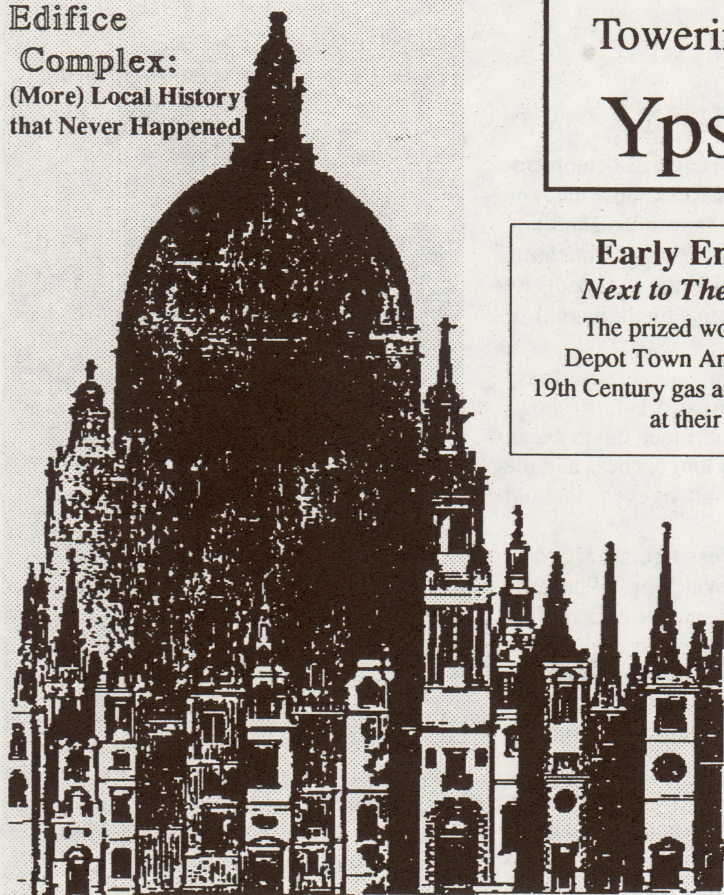
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**Edifice
Complex:**
(More) Local History
that Never Happened



The Great Tower-Building Epoch of Several Years Ago

The practice of early wealthy mill owners of building taller towers than their neighbors' finally got out of hand when Terrance Fishback, of Ypsilanti Amalgamated Hoop Manufactory fame, found unexpected success in the space race D-ring industry.

He quickly turned his fortune into bricks and mortar, hiring nearly a quarter million Italian artisans to spend their summer vacation in Ypsilanti. By the end of one week they had erected the largest domed handball court west of the Alleghenies.

Fishback soon tired of his prize and left for a career of drawbridge oiling in the West. His tower was dismantled and its original foundation marks the boundaries of today's Eastern Michigan University campus -- excluding a few apartment houses which have never really been accepted into the 'town and gown' relationship we have enjoyed for so long, so who misses them anyway?

Grateful:

Steve Gross (Depot Exchange Antiques) offers thanks and appreciation to all the neighbors and merchants who shared their concerns about events and activities in the streets for this year's Festival. This year's plan seems the best one, yet!

Towering expectations • • • Festival facts for Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

Early Engine Expo

Next to The Old Caboose

The prized working iron of the Depot Town Antique Engine Club 19th Century gas and steam contraptions at their very best!

Over 300,000 people attended last year's Heritage Festival - and some of them had such a good time that they plan on returning this year. At least 200 of them live right in Depot Town and never go home.

Ypsilanti Food Co-op's Quilt Raffle

A handmade, Amish-style quilt

will again be offered as a prize in a drawing. Tickets are available at the River Street Co-op through August and during the Festival.

The Great Train Race

Sunday morning in the Market Plaza

Check in from 6:30-7:30 am
at the Freighthouse

Course:

Mostly country, Splits 1/3/5.
water stops, mile markers

Awards:

- First over-all man and woman
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each division
- Ribbons to walkers

Events:

- 5 Km open run/walk
- 10 Km open run
- 1 mile walk

Entry Fees \$10 (includes shirt)

Late entry fee after August 9 - \$13.00

One mile walk - \$3 (no shirt).

Late fee after August 9 is \$5.

Shirts: \$5 while they last.

Mail entries and make checks payable to:

The Great Train Race

400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Jitterbug contest

Friday night by the tracks

7-8 pm Kid's events

- Limbo contest
- Hula Hoop contest
- Jitterbug contest
- Announce winners (ages 0-16)

8 pm Adult check-in

8:30 Adult warm-up

9 pm Jitterbug contest

9:30 Winners announced

9:40 - 11 pm Open jitterbug for everyone!

*Prizes for Best Costume, too.
Certificates (suitable for framing)
for all participants.*

7-10 Saturday night

Contra Dance with the Double Dip String Band

in East Cross Street by the tracks

Karen Misavage has led Contra Dances at Frog Island and the Freighthouse this summer, now invites others to join in the fun.

Contra dancing is similar to square dancing, using many of the same maneuvers and figures. It is performed by long lines of couples facing each other; the name is derived from the French term 'conrare,' meaning "opposed," or "facing." A familiar example is the Virginia Reel.

No partner, experience, or special attire are required, although soft-soled, flat-heeled shoes are recommended.

Saturday, after the big parade:

Classic Bicycle & Whizzer Club

display of bikes until 3 pm

Kids' Pedal Pull - 3pm

just like the tractor pulls at the Silverdome, but for kids and no traffic jams.

Registration on the stage next to the tracks
1:30-3 pm. \$1 entry, trophies.

New this year:

The small stage at the East End of East Cross Street in DepotTown!

Depot Town • • • Getting high on local history

1: 16, 17, 18, August 1991

Heritage Jazz Competition

sponsored by Depot Town
and WEMU 8.91 fm

in the big tent next to the tracks

Fifteen up-and-coming jazz groups in hot
competition

Beginning at noon each day

... and it's all FREE!

Friday night:

Conquerroots Blues Band

Saturday night:

The Howlin' Diablos of Soul

Sunday afternoon:

Impacto Nuevo

(12-piece salsa band from Cleveland)

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall

On Frog Island August 14 - 20, 1991

A special presentation of the traveling replica of Washington D.C.'s monument that was created to enable more people to share in this profoundly American experience. A special program of memorial services will be conducted by local chapters of various veterans organizations.

The theme of this year's gorgeous Heritage Festival poster will be erected right in Depot Town's back yard: Frog Island. It's a most moving memorial that everyone will want to visit while in Ypsilanti.

In the Freighthouse

Quilt Show &

WEMU historic record sale

"Records we never play," says Music Director, Linda Yohn. "Richard Wagner, bad Elvis cuts, Strawberry Alarm Clock, The Doors, Grateful Dead! Stuff we once played, but don't any more, like: Anita Bryant rarities, Andre Kostelanetz, Broadway show tunes, and polyester disco records to amaze your friends." There will be some rap CDs and New Age sides, as well. Over 10,000 in all! Prices start at \$4 and will fall throughout the weekend.

Sunday 12:30 - 3 pm

Country Line Dancing

demonstration w/ audience participation
presented by the Country Class Country/
Western Line Dancers

Classic Coupes on display

between Aubree's and the railroad track

with special events for antique auto
enthusiasts throughout the weekend.

Courtesy of Connie Bank & Terry Webster
of Ypsilanti's Classic Coupes, Inc.

12th annual Heritage Fest grew out of Depot Town's Sidewalk Celebration

When the new sidewalks replaced the narrow and broken ones down here in 1979, the neighbors tied blue ribbons across the new span of cement in front of every store and had Mayor Goodman come down and do an official ribbon-cutting for every store front.

It was a grand but informal parade that focused on card table displays, a concert by the 2-5-1 Orchestra between the Alibi Bar and the railroad tracks and a few displays of crafts along the sidewalks.

Locals sat with the DPW crew in the beer tent in front of the former Pure gasoline station and wondered about making it an annual event. "Maybe we could even close off the street to vehicular traffic," suggested one. "No way," said the City Manager. "It's impossible to close a State trunkline."

Arts & Crafts Exhibits

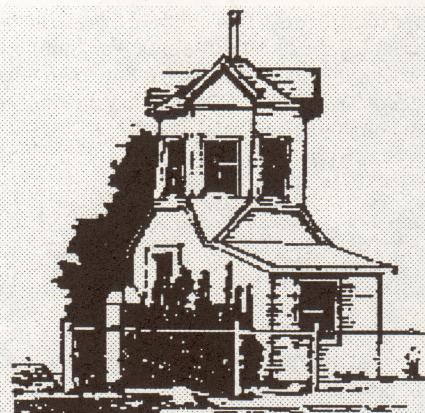
in scattered shelters

from the bridge to the railroad track.

The opinions of the folks in the arts and crafts booths have been split the last eleven years on whether they wanted to be in the cool, grassy shade of Riverside Park or up on the street where all the action is. A few years ago we saw giant tents on the street which were only open a few hours of the Festival, and then closed up and blocking the shops along the sidewalks.

This year's plan gets more of the quality work displayed in staggered shelters, affording the milling crowd a gentle meander through this old commercial district.

Shop owners are encouraged to move their regular fare out onto the sidewalk and be alert for interlopers who might take advantage of the large crowds by bringing in 'junque' sales for the occasion. "Outsiders" will have to register with the Festival Committee via the Chamber of Commerce offices to make application for next year!



Crossing Tower to reappear at Cross and River Streets Tower is really a shanty say local experts

It's not a *signal tower*, but a *crossing guard's shanty*, we were informed by a helpful local antiquer who says he remembers when the guard would sit in the tower to raise and lower the train gates in the 'good old days.' Actually, this is not the tower he remembers, but he's certainly got the name correct. Disregard any previous promotion under the erroneous label. From now on, it's the Crossing Guard *SHANTY*!

Perhaps the happiest piece of news this decade is the fact that the Shanty exists at all. Its replication has long been on the Want List for Association projects but, until this year's cooperation with the City of Ypsilanti and the DDA, it kept getting shelved. Special thanks to DDA contributors and members, Councilmember Murdock, Mayor King and planning intern Scott Holmgren for taking the Shanty project from the dream stage to reality.

The design changed from an actual building to a three-dimensional sign board, but the octagonal turret still proclaims a second architectural explanation point for this old 19th Century town.

Members of the Depot Town Antique Engine Club say they'll be able to make sense from the many drawings which were generated over the years, and their ministrations -- along with Doug Dillon's guidance -- will make the dream a reality.

The Shanty's main function will be to create a destination sign for the district. "You have arrived in Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town," it says. Area marketing experts say that's an optimistic sign of the times. Where else? Some more romantic and poetic souls say the Shanty provides a second architectural exclamation point for Ypsilanti's skyline. Look up the street to the east to see the first one.

DTA, page 5 August 1991

Addendum: Here's one song we missed in the July issue. True, it's not about Ypsilanti, but deals with one establishment in that town. For whatever it's worth... (Let's not say we missed it, only omitted it.)

ALIBI GUY

- Tom Dodd, 1982

in the manner of Robert Service

Well, now, the Alibi Bar was a helluva bar
And they did what they could to keep pace.
They took out the charm,

which was doin' no harm

And they've ruined the gooddam place.

Now the bartenders smile

and the bathroom's all tile

And the music is too damn low.

The waitress says, "Please,"

and she won't let you squeeze

And that neon is just for show.

CHORUS:

Oh, he's the Alibi guy,

just a little bit high,

He's the last of the "macho-crude."

So let's say goodbye to the Alibi guy;

The last of a vanishing brood.

I'm the Alibi guy

and I gotta get high,

I've been coming down here for years.

I'm that neighborhood cat

who knows where it's at

So bring us a couple-a beers.

I'm terribly cool and a whiz at pool,

I'm really great at darts.

In the Pac Man hustle I'm big on muscle;

I've really got the smarts.

CHORUS:

Do you come here often? What's your sign?

Didn't we meet at T.C.'s?

Order a round and blow your mind.

That's right: I'm a feces!

I come in here and I swill down brew

Then I head for the john like a comet.

It's happened before -

- I can tell when it's time,

'Cause this is when I vomit.

CHORUS:

Bring me a couple 'them bird-bath drinks

And a big meat-burger, too.

I'm not one of the "veggie finks,"

Would you like to see my tattoo?

Now they've changed the name

and it's not the same

And we all mourn its loss.

It's all for show, but we all know:

That Aubree's Saloon is still boss!

CHORUS:

D.T.A. President's message:



It hasn't been a secret around town that our *Rag* Editor and long-time Depot Town activist, Tom Dodd and his wife Bettie, have had their commercial building on the selling block for the last few months. As one of our "urban pioneers," Tom's list of contributions to the redevelopment of Depot Town would certainly take more space than allotted in this column. Let's simply say that, without Tom's leadership and tireless effort, Depot Town wouldn't be what it is today.

With a laugh and twinkle in his eye, he informed me that their building has been sold. As of this July, Tom and Bettie will be moving to their new home on Ford Lake. Already, boat owners are calling them about pontoon boats that would be perfect for their surroundings. It's hard to imagine Tom with his sunglasses cruising around the lake and catching rays, but it's true!

I can not deny that I have mixed emotions about his moving out of Depot Town. On one hand, I'm happy for him and Bettie. It's not often that you can move to your 'retirement home' twenty years early. But, on the other hand, what's going to happen to Depot Town without his vision and leadership?

All In The Family, a television sitcom in the '70s, had a similar situation with its main character, Archie Bunker. His daughter Gloria and her husband Mike, after living with Archie for a long time, had decided to move out of his house. Even though they were moving only next door, it brought out his concerns about *change* and loss of a family member. It was a time of reflection for the Bunkers.

But, after the move, Gloria and Mike continued to come over for dinner and Archie adapted to his new situation. The Depot Town Association, as Archie discovered, must be ready to adapt to *change*.

Fortunately for our Association, Tom isn't retiring from Depot Town. His domicile may be in the township, but his heart is here in Depot Town. We can still expect to see him at our meetings and *The Rag* still has its crusty editor.

Thanks, Tom. Best wishes to you and Bettie.

-Bill French, your prez.

[See action taken at DTA's July meeting on page 7]

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Vintage Clothing

Page 6 DTA, August 1991

Depot Town Association, Inc., 18 July 1991



DTA: Firmly rooted in the past - with a clear view forward!

Minutes of June meeting were approved as published.

Guest: Officer Malcolm Winn of the Ypsilanti Police Department is the new liaison for crime prevention in the district. He explained the similarity of neighborhood- and business-watch programs and is compiling a list of business owners' after-hours phone numbers. Give him yours and he'll give you his emergency beeper number which is even more direct than the 911 emergency number. August 6, he says, is the annual National Night Out where the rest of urban America pretends their blocks are as friendly as Depot Town's. (Most of our are already out there with our porch lights on — and it's good to see more people every year.) On panhandlers, Malcolm says, "They are there simply because someone is giving them money!" He urges shopkeepers to report any instances of such activity.

Treasury's current balance is \$2147.81. A policy on events budgeting is being worked out between the treasurer and committee chairs.

Jazz Report: \$280 in ad funds are still owed on the Frog Island Program, with an expected profit of nearly \$900. The sale of Frog Island enamel pins continues through Heritage Fest at many district shops. Heritage Jazz Competition will see nearly \$14,000 in costs, still needs volunteers for set-up, security and clean-up -

Depot Town artists active in A2 show

The closing of the Depot Town Art Gallery cooperative a year ago didn't stop local artists from producing. They're still together: from now until Christmas at the Ann Arbor Farmers' Market area next to Kerrytown. The collection of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti artists shows recent works for sale from 11am to 4pm every Sunday. Depot Town participants include Bonnie Penet, Helen Bunch and Jeanne Adwani with their multi-media products which were so popular in our block. Today Depot Town; tomorrow the world!

Let Us Print Your Heritage Festival Flyers

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Visit us in Depot Town during the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

(call 482-6371). Insurance will cost around \$2700 and will hold the City and the Chamber of Commerce as 'additional insureds.'

DTA Executive Board will meet Monday evening, July 23 at Sticks to develop job descriptions and conduct an organizational self-assessment.

Rag Report: The editor has presented a proposal for continuation of the district's monthly paper after his move from the area and needs an official response by October to provide continuity.

Downtown Development Authority met earlier the same evening and accepted bids for supplies to build the Cross Guard Shanty, landscaping, lighting, benches, signs, fences and more. City Council will clear the way with long term lease for the use of the land at the corner of Cross, River and the railroad tracks.

Ants in our pants: A gas bomb will be detonated in the Caboose next week to get rid of our unwanted tenants.

Next meeting will be a week earlier than usual: 7:30 pm, Thursday, 8, 1991.

New or renewing members of The Depot Town Association
James T. Westfall,
Gary & Carolyn McKeever,
Sidetrack, Mike Agar

Same song, second verse; a little bit louder, a heck of a lot worse

Ros Krift has found a verse from Bryan and Van Alstyne's 1915 *Ypsilanti Comic Song* that was omitted from our July issue. Interestingly enough, it's every bit and good as the others. Oh, well.

A bean is a bean just as long as a bean's

In the place where a bean ought to be,
But, when it has "bean" in the soup very long
Then it's just a "has-bean," don't you see.

Yip-si-lan-ti, Mich-i-gan,

Yip-si-lan-ti, wish again;

I've got an auntie who lives in a shanty
in Yip-si-lan-ti, swish again.

If you want a rhyme for any old time,
Just sing them all over again.

Auntie, shanty, Yp-si-lan-ti,
Then catch a fish again.

Thanks, Ros, for making our collection of Ypsi Songs more complete. Ann Arborites are still complaining that they don't have a song for their town. Maybe the time is right?

August 1991

Depot Towners are invited to participate in any or all of the following activities for the good of this old commercial district:

Depot Town Association
a week earlier than usual:

7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8

The Old Caboose

Depot Town
Antique Engine Club
Cook Out at the Caboose
7:00 p.m. Thursday, 22

You can rent
The Old Caboose



for your party, meeting
catered dinner, or
special event ...

(\$25 + \$10 refundable deposit)

Call 483-4256.

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc. a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

—Tom Dodd, editor

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
A. William French, president
c/o The Old Caboose
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Active Memberships:

* Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce

The Depot Town Association

is a nonprofit, tax exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character and history of the Depot Town area and to ensuring the economic growth and stability of the area.

Cut out and mail your dues to:

DTA, 400 Market Place,
Ypsilanti, MI, 48198.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

☐ Associate member \$10.

☐ Business/Property member \$25.

☐ Sustaining member \$100.

☐ Please mail *The Rag* or ☐ I'll pick it up.

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A Depot Town SAMPLER

Welcome back to
the good old days

Anyone arriving in Depot Town for August's
annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival for the first
time might very well think that all this looks
very familiar to them. It should.

Not only is this the original mall concept -
dating back to its role in the Michigan Territory
before statehood - but almost every midwestern
town in America has its version of the same kind
of back-street place.

Some look like Depot Town did twenty years
ago. Others are catching up. Even a few 'real'
malls are copying the concept by attaching
"Victorian" storefronts to their cement block
edifices and making cute signs.

Good luck to them. All they need, now, is an
owner behind the cash register and their kids
playing on the porches upstairs.

**YPSI.
FOOD
CO-OP** **Quilt Raffle**
at the Heritage Festival
of a handmade
Amish Style Quilt
Tickets available
at the Co-op &
at Heritage Festival

Sun. 12-5, M,T,Th, F 10-7 Wed. 10-9 Sat. 9-7
312 N. RIVER ST. 483-1520



In Depot Town

Commercial:

2nd floor commercial space available - 482-6371

Residential:

Studio apartment with loft and balcony
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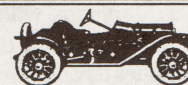
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